



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**KEARNEY, CHILLICOTHE, KC FELONS INDICTED
FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM, AMMUNITION POSSESSION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that four felons were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms and ammunition. Today's indictments are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Matthew A. Brooks**, 31, of Kearney, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that **Brooks** was in possession of six live rounds of Remington-Peters .357-caliber ammunition on July 26, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Brooks** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for burglary, a 1996 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 1990 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

In a notice of special findings, the indictment also alleges that **Brooks** possessed the ammunition in connection with another felony offense. The indictment alleges that **Brooks** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine and tampered with a motor vehicle on July 26, 2004, while also in possession of the ammunition.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Liberty, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Steven M. Powers**, 46, of Chillicothe, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Powers** was in possession of a Ruger 10/22 rifle on Aug. 18, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Powers** has two 1994 criminal felony convictions for unlawful use of a weapon, a 1983 criminal felony conviction for burglary, two 1982 criminal felony convictions for unlawful use of a weapon and resisting arrest, a 1981 criminal felony conviction for burglary and a 1976 criminal felony conviction for tampering with a motor vehicle.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Carroll County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Jesse D. Counce**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Counce** was in possession of a Bryco .38-caliber pistol on Oct. 11, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Counce** has a 1991 criminal felony conviction for involuntary manslaughter.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Hunt. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Antonio Clemmons**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Clemmons** was in possession of a Cobray 9 mm pistol on Nov. 12, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Clemmons** has a 1991 criminal felony conviction for robbery and a 1990 criminal felony conviction for tampering.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow